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# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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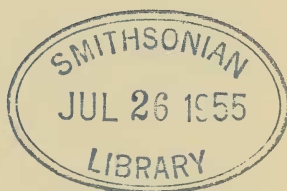
**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

**VOLUME 10. Part 13. Pp. 389—408**

## **OPINION 346**

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, for the genus  
*Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order  
Coleoptera) of a type species in harmony with current  
usage



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 346

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*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*) (27th July 1948)

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## OPINION 346

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, FOR THE GENUS "GEOTRUPES" LATREILLE, 1796 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER COLEOPTERA) OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH CURRENT USAGE

**RULING :—**(1) Under the Plenary Powers all type selections for the nominal genus *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and the nominal species *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 864 and 865 respectively :—

- (a) *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1) above : *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758) ;
- (b) *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Jekel (1866) : *Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius, 1781).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 474 and 475 respectively :—

- (a) *stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Scarabaeus stercorarius* (specific name of type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1) above, of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796) ;
- (b) *dispar* Fabricius, 1781, as published in the combination *Scarabaeus dispar* (specific name of type species of *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824).

## I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 3rd January 1948 Dr. Robert W. L. Potts (*State of California Department of Agriculture, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*) addressed a preliminary communication to the Commission asking for the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating the nominal species *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the nominal genus *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera), in order thereby to avoid the confusion which would result, if, as appeared to be necessary under the ordinary provisions of the *Règles*, the nominal species *Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius, 1781, were to be accepted as the type species of the foregoing genus. Later, this application was revised in certain minor respects (paragraph 3 below). As finally submitted, it was as follows :—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate a type species for the genus “*Geotrupes*” Latreille, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) in harmony with current nomenclatorial usage**

By ROBERT W. L. POTTS

(*California State Department of Agriculture, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*)

In checking early references to the generic name *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (*Préc. Caract. gen. Ins.* : 6) (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) for a proposed general paper on the genus, it became apparent that the current use of this name is not in accordance with the Rules and that the strict application of those Rules would do serious violence to our current concept of this genus. It is to avoid confusion which would so result that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is now asked to use its Plenary Powers to designate, as the type species of this important genus, a species in harmony with current nomenclatorial practice.

2. The early history of the generic name *Geotrupes* may be summarised as follows :—

- (1) The generic name *Geotrupes* was first published in 1796 by Latreille. He gave a short generic diagnosis, but cited no nominal species as belonging to this genus, for which he designated no type species.

- (2) The next author to use the generic name *Geotrupes* was Fabricius, who in 1798 (*Suppl. Ent. syst.* : [1], 7—22) gave a description for the genus so named not at all parallel to that previously given by Latreille. Fabricius placed in this genus sixty-three species, most of which are now placed in the subfamily DYNASTINAE; only five of the species included by Fabricius in this genus belong to the present subfamily GEOTRUPINAE, one of these being *Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius, 1781 (*Spec. Ins.* 1 : 5). Elsewhere in the *Suppl. Ent. syst.* ( : 2, 23—24) Fabricius listed under the generic name *Scarabaeus* species which are now treated as belonging to the genus *Geotrupes*.
- (3) In 1801 (*Syst. Eleuth.* : 2—26) Fabricius added further species both to *Geotrupes* and *Scarabaeus*, still preserving his concept of the two genera.
- (4) In 1802 (*Hist. nat. gén. partic. Crust. Ins.*) Latreille listed two species under the generic name *Geotrupes*, the first of these being *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 349).
- (5) In 1804 Latreille (*ibid.* 10 : 142—147) listed seven species in the genus *Geotrupes*; of these the first was *dispar* Fabricius and the fourth *stercorarius* Linnaeus. In his introduction to the genus Latreille complained at the way in which Fabricius had transposed the use of the names *Geotrupes* and *Scarabaeus* as used in the *Précis des Caractères* of 1796, saying : “J’avois posé les bases de ce genre *Geotrupes* dans mon ouvrage intitulé ‘Précis des Caractères génériques des Insectes,’ ou, pour parler plus vrais, je n’avois fait que donner un dénomination à la seconde coup des scarabées d’Olivier, car ce naturaliste avait exposé tous les caractères de ce genre avant moi. Fabricius, en adoptant ce travail, a fait malheureusement une transposition de noms; mes scarabées sont devenus des geotrupes, et mes geotrupes des scarabées. Ce changement n’étant pas fondé, on me permette de n’y avoir pas égard”.

3. The position is therefore that the name *Geotrupes* was published in 1796 for a genus for which a diagnosis was given, but for which no nominal species were cited. Accordingly, the type species of *Geotrupes* would until 1948, have had to be determined under the provisions of the Commission’s *Opinion* 46, but now has to be determined under the amended and clarified provisions adopted by the International Congress of Zoology in Paris in 1948 (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 159—160, 346). Under those provisions the only species which are eligible for selection as the type species of a genus established without any nominal

species referred thereto are those species cited by name as belonging to the genus in question on the first occasion on which any species are so cited.

4. In the present case therefore the only species eligible for selection as the type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796, are those cited by Fabricius in 1798, unless it could be shown that Fabricius published the name *Geotrupes* in 1798 in ignorance of the fact that the same name had been published two years earlier by Latreille for what (at that time) was regarded a closely allied group of species. If it could be established that this is what happened—and a ruling from the Commission would be needed to set this question at rest—the name *Geotrupes* Fabricius, 1798, would be a new name, quite independent of (though a junior homonym of) *Geotrupes* Latreille and the species cited by Fabricius for that genus would have no bearing on the question of the species which are to be regarded as the sole originally included species of *Geotrupes* Latreille. There is, however, no evidence which would support such a hypothesis and it must therefore be dismissed. Another possibility that has been considered is that it really was by accident and not by intention that Fabricius used the names *Geotrupes* and *Scarabaeus* in the opposite sense to that in which those names had been used by Latreille; here again there is no evidence to support such a contention. Moreover, if such evidence had been available, it would have been necessary for the Commission to use its Plenary Powers to secure the necessary correction, for such an error, if it had been committed could not have been corrected automatically under Article 19, which is concerned only with the correction of the spelling of names.

5. Thus, under the Rules the only species eligible for selection as the type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille are those cited by Fabricius as belonging to that genus. As already explained *Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius, 1781, is the only one of the species cited by Fabricius in 1798 which was also cited by Latreille in 1804. The selection of that species, as the type species, would alone secure that the genus *Geotrupes* remained in the subfamily GEOTRUPINAE as at present understood. The selection of that species would, however, be open to strong objection: first, it would involve the transfer of the name *Geotrupes* to the genus now known as *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824 (*Entomogr. Imp. russ.* 2 : 143), of which *Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius is also the type species (by selection by Jekel (1866, *Ann. Soc. ent. France* (4) 5 : 522, 535)). Second, such a transfer would do violence to the concept of the genus *Geotrupes* Latreille, which for nearly one hundred and fifty years has been based upon the belief that, under the selection made by Latreille in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 428), the type species of this genus was *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758.

6. In these circumstances I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to prevent the confusion which would certainly arise if it were no longer possible to accept *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus as the type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille. The specific request which I put forward is that the Commission should :—

- (1) use its Plenary Powers to set aside all type selections for the genus *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796, made prior to the decision now proposed to be taken, and to designate *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by designation, as proposed in (1) above, under the Plenary Powers : *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758) ;
  - (b) *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, by selection by Jekel (1866) : *Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius, 1781) ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
  - (a) *stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binominal combination *Scarabaeus stercorarius*<sup>1</sup> (trivial name of type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796) ;
  - (b) *dispar* Fabricius, 1781, as published in the binominal combination *Scarabaeus dispar* (trivial name of type species of *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824).

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

**2. Registration of the present application :** On receipt of Dr. Potts's preliminary communication in January 1948, the question

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<sup>1</sup> Through an undetected typing error this name appeared as *Scarabaeus dispar* instead of as *Scarabaeus stercorarius* when Dr. Potts's application was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

of the species to be accepted as the type species of the genus *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 338.

**3. Revision of the present application in 1951 :** The present application was received too late for consideration by the International Commission at its Session held in Paris in 1948, where the time available for dealing with applications relating to individual names was not sufficient to permit of decisions being taken on a number of such applications received at considerably earlier dates. In the period immediately following the close of the Paris (1948) Session the entire resources of the Office of the Commission were devoted to the preparation and publication of the Official Record of Proceedings at that Session, and it was not until 1950 that it was possible to resume consideration of applications relating to individual names submitted to the Commission for decision. Like all other applications then outstanding, the present application required certain minor revisions in order to bring it into line with the procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, under which it became in future the duty of the Commission to place on the *Official List* and *Official Index* of specific names any such name as in its *Opinions* it might accept as an available name or, as the case might be, it might reject under its Plenary Powers or might declare to be invalid under the *Règles*. When making these formal amendments to the present application, Dr. Potts took advantage of the opportunity so presented to expand his application to cover also the generic name *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824, which was intimately concerned with the case of the name *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796, since, in the absence of action by the Commission under its Plenary Powers, the type species of that genus (*Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius, 1781) was also the type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille. These revisions of the present application were completed by 1st May 1951, when the final text was submitted to the Commission.

**4. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 27th May 1951 and was published

on 28th September 1951 in Part 2 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Potts, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 49—51).

**5. Issue of Public Notices :** Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56) Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 28th September 1951 (a) in Part 2 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Potts's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Public Notice was given to a number of general zoological serial publications and also to certain entomological serials in Europe and America.

**6. Comment received from Dr. Henry Townes and Dr. Henry Howden (North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering of the University of North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.):** On 31st January 1952 Dr. Henry F. Howden (*State College of Agriculture and Engineering of the University of North Carolina, Division of Biological Sciences, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.*) addressed a letter to the Commission covering the following paper prepared jointly by Dr. Henry Townes of the same Institution and himself, commenting upon Dr. Potts's application and advancing a different interpretation of the nomenclatorial issues involved (Townes & Howden, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 207—209) :—

On the type species of the genus " *Geotrupes* " Latreille, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) and a discussion on the Fabrician (1798) usage of other names proposed by Latreille in 1796 :  
comment on the application submitted by Dr. Robert W. L.  
Potts

By HENRY TOWNES and HENRY HOWDEN  
(*North Carolina State College, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.*)

Potts (1948, *Pan-Pac. Ent.* 24 : 23—26) has recently published a study of the literature pertinent to the application of the name *Geotrupes*

and reached certain conclusions. A review of the facts by us has led to different conclusions, which seem worthwhile to offer and discuss.

2. In 1796 Latreille (*Précis Caract. génér. Ins.* : 6) proposed and characterised *Geotrupes* as a new genus of SCARABAEIDAE (Coleoptera) but did not place species in the genus. In 1798 Fabricius (*Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 7) defined and used *Geotrupes* as a genus of scarabaeids and placed 63 species in it. Since Latreille included no species when he proposed *Geotrupes*, the type species should be one of the first group of species placed under the generic name by later authors (*i.e.*, possibly one of those referred to *Geotrupes* by Fabricius in 1798). (See *Opinion* 46 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.) Literature is replete with cases of this kind and the case of *Geotrupes*, if similar to these, should be handled in the same way. A study of the case of *Geotrupes*, however, shows that this is probably a quite different one. It appears rather that Fabricius' use of *Geotrupes* was an independent proposal of the name and not dependent on Latreille's publication.

3. Fabricius' 1798 usage of *Geotrupes* was in his *Supplementum Entomologiae systematicae*. This book is a supplement to his *Entomologia systematica*, for the purpose of adding new genera and species to the earlier work. In the *Supplementum*, new genera and ones which Fabricius wished to redefine are described at the beginning of each Order. Genera which Fabricius described as new have an additional descriptive footnote at the place where the genus is treated. All the species known to Fabricius are listed under the new genera, while only new species are placed under old or redefined genera (as in the case of *Scarabaeus*). If the genus is simply adopted from some other author or is redefined, the footnote description is not present. Although Fabricius did not give references to previous uses of a generic name and did not state when he was proposing a new genus, the footnote description in small type is used so regularly in connection with the new genera that its presence may be taken as a sign that Fabricius intended a genus as a new one. We have checked through the *Supplementum* for consistency in this practice and find only the following exceptions : 1, The new genera *Scyllarus*, *Galleria*, *Phycis*, and *Crambus* lack the footnote. 2, A few previously proposed genera of Crustacea have the footnote. 3, Five generic names used in Latreille's *Précis* are used again by Fabricius but with the footnote description accompanying the proposal of a new name. This third set of cases is of particular interest because *Geotrupes* is one of the names involved. In his *Précis*, Latreille proposed scores of new generic names, only seven of which appear in Fabricius' *Supplementum*. These are *Geotrupes*, *Sicus*, *Thereva*, *Mulio*, *Psochus*, *Orusses*, and *Ypsilopha*. The names *Orusses* and *Ypsilopha* are emended to *Oryssus* and *Ypsilophus* respectively and are treated as previously proposed names (*i.e.*, without the footnote description). The name *Psochus* is emended to *Psocus*

and treated as a new name (*i.e.*, with the footnote description). In the cases of *Geotrupes*, *Sicus*, *Thereva*, and *Mulio*, though the names had been published by Latreille in 1796, Fabricius used them in 1798 with his footnote description that indicated he was describing them as new genera. In all four cases Fabricius' descriptions and Latreille's later criticisms (1802 and 1804, *Hist. nat. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 429, 436, 439 and 456 ; 10 : 142 ; 1807, *Gen. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 296) show that Fabricius applied the names to quite different concepts than did Latreille. It seems clear that Fabricius was either not aware of Latreille's previous use (or at least not of his application) of these names when he was writing his *Supplementum*, or if he did know how they were applied by Latreille, he chose to ignore Latreille's intent and to propose them as new names with applications more pleasing to himself. In either case, he proposed homonyms and put species into his own preoccupied genera and not into Latreille's genera of the same names, which were proposed without included species.

4. Fabricius is well known as a person who picked up unpublished (or published) names of other authors and published them as his own new genera, often with a changed application. Classic examples of this habit are the Hymenoptera names pirated from Jurine. The handful of previously published generic names in Crustacea which Fabricius indicated as new in his *Supplementum* may be other examples.

5. Since the *Supplementum* was published only two years after Latreille's *Précis*, one could assume that Fabricius was ignorant of it, while writing the *Supplementum*, especially since most of its new genera are not in the *Supplementum*. The seven that were adopted or pirated there may have been learned of through correspondence with Latreille or may have been last minute changes in the manuscript, after the printed *Précis* was received by Fabricius. The fact that scores of other names were ignored by Fabricius indicates his ignorance of the body of Latreille's contribution, and the fact that Latreille showed knowledge in his *Précis* (pages 71—72) of the name *Eudomychus* which Fabricius was expected to propose in his *Supplementum* (actually as *Endomychus*) indicates simultaneous work and some exchange of manuscript names between the two authors. The fact that Fabricius proposed new names for Latreille's *Gasteruption* and *Psammochares* (*Foenus* and *Pompilus* respectively) is another instance of his ignorance or disregard of the published *Précis*.

6. With the above understanding of the Latreille names that appear in Fabricius' *Supplementum*, it seems that *Geotrupes* Fabricius, 1798,

was proposed as a new genus, but is a homonym of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796. The first species included in *Geotrupes* Latreille (not Fabricius) are *stercorarius* and *vernalis* Latreille, 1802 (*Hist. nat. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 145). In 1810, Latreille (*Consid. générales sur l'Ordre nat.* : 428) lists "*Scarabaeus stercorarius* Fab." as an example ("type") of *Geotrupes*. Many authors accept this list as designating type species<sup>2</sup>. Those who do not would accept Curtis' designation (1829, *Brit. Ent., Coleoptera* 1 : 266) of "*Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linn." as the type, unless it could be shown that there is some earlier acceptable selection. The species *stercorarius* is the traditional type species of *Geotrupes* and its acceptance as such preserves the traditional application of the name.

7. If Potts' conclusions (1948, *Pan-Pac. Ent.* 24 : 23—26) are accepted, the type species must be some species other than *stercorarius*. Potts states that it would then be *dispar*, which is placed in a different genus (*Ceratophysus*) of GEOTRUPINI than *stercorarius*. With *dispar* as the type species, the application of the name *Geotrupes* would need to be shifted, except under those schools of thought which consider usage or authority dominant factors in scientific nomenclature. Potts, however, seems to have dismissed too easily the possibility that Fabricius described his *Geotrupes* as a new genus. His conclusion in this regard was influenced in part by the absence of a "genotype" description for *Geotrupes* such as Fabricius commonly gave when describing new genera. (See Malaise, 1938, *Ent. Tidskr.* 59 : 99—106 and Blackwelder, 1946, *Bull. Brooklyn ent. Soc.* 41 : 72—78.) An examination of the entire volume, however, shows that Fabricius regularly omitted "genotype" descriptions in his *Supplementum*. Potts did not mention the kinds of evidence we bring out in the discussion above.

8. Latreille himself and authors after his time (except Potts) reached the same general conclusion as we have. If, however, the conclusion reached by Potts could be supported by indisputable bibliographic facts, technical honesty would require adjustment of the nomenclature to fit the facts. Potts has recently requested (1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 49) the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for protection against the necessity of acting according to his published conclusions and the Commission has accepted the case and invited comment from interested parties before a decision is reached. (See *Science* 114 : 673—674, 1951.) We therefore send this paper to the Commission, in the hopes of convincing it that, in this case at least, the commonly accepted rules of nomenclature should be allowed to operate.

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<sup>2</sup> The acceptance of the entries in Latreille's *Table des Genres* as validly made selections of type species is now obligatory under the Ruling given in *Opinion* 11 as clarified by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 136.

**7. Presentation to the Commission of alternative courses of action in the present case :** When in February 1954 the work of the Office of the Commission had reached the stage at which the issues raised in the present case were the next to be submitted to the Commission for decision, consideration was given by the Secretary as to the procedure to be adopted in placing the present case before the Commission, having regard to the fact that the difference of view between Dr. Potts on the one hand and Drs. Howden and Townes on the other hand was not concerned with the question of the desirability or otherwise of the acceptance of the nominal species *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796, but with the question whether or not that species was already the type species of that genus under the *Règles*, Dr. Potts holding the view that it was not, and Drs. Townes and Howden holding that it was. Mr. Hemming concluded that the course most convenient for the purpose of enabling the Commission to take a decision by postal vote in the present case would be, first, for the Commission to take a decision on the question whether it was desirable that the foregoing species should be maintained as the type species of the genus *Geotrupes* Latreille, and, second, to take a vote on the alternative courses which had been submitted for consideration, namely (1) the use of the Plenary Powers as recommended by Dr. Potts, and (2) the acceptance of the thesis advanced by Drs. Townes & Howden that the foregoing species was already the type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille. The alternative draft Rulings prepared in connection with the second of the proposed votes were the following :—

**ALTERNATIVE DRAFT RULINGS SUBMITTED IN  
CONNECTION WITH VOTE NO. 2**

**ALTERNATIVE “ A ”**

(adoption of Potts's proposal that the Plenary Powers should be used to secure that “ *Scarabaeus stercorarius* ” Linnaeus, 1758, shall be the type species of “ *Geotrupes* ” Latreille, 1796)

(1) Under the Plenary Powers all type selections for the genus *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796, made prior to the present Ruling are hereby

set aside, and *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*: (a) *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (gender of generic name: feminine) (type species by designation under the Plenary Powers: *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758); (b) *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824 (gender of generic name: masculine) (type species, by selection by Jekel (1866): *Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius, 1781).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*: (a) *stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Scarabaeus stercorarius* (specific name of type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796); (b) *dispar* Fabricius, 1781, as published in the combination *Scarabaeus dispar* (specific name of type species of *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824).

#### ALTERNATIVE " B "

(adoption of argument advanced by Townes & Howden, under which " *Scarabaeus stercorarius* " Linnaeus, 1758, is already the valid type species of the genus " *Geotrupes* " Latreille, 1796)

(1) The usage by Fabricius (J.C.) in 1798 and 1801 of the generic name *Geotrupes* is to be interpreted as constituting an independent publication of that name and not as a usage of the name *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796, and, in consequence, the species placed by Fabricius in the genus *Geotrupes* Fabricius, 1798, have no bearing on the question of what species are to be regarded as alone eligible for selection as the type species of the genus *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (a genus established without cited nominal species).

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*: (a) *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796 (gender of generic name: feminine) (type species, by selection by Latreille (1810): *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758); (b) *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824 (gender of generic name: masculine) (type species, by selection by Jekel (1866): *Scarabaeus dispar* Fabricius, 1781).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*: (a) *stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Scarabaeus stercorarius* (specific name of type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796); (b) *dispar* Fabricius, 1781, as published in the combination *Scarabaeus dispar* (specific name of type species of *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824).

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*: *Geotrupes* Fabricius, 1798 (a junior homonym of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796).

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**8. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)13 :** On 27th February 1954 a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)13) was issued, in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, two independent but connected propositions. The following are the propositions so submitted :—

#### VOTE NO. 1

Under Vote No. 1 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against the proposal that the Commission should “ensure that *Scarabaeus stercorarius* Linnaeus, 1758, should be maintained as the type species of *Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796”. Annexed to this part of the Voting Paper was the following note : “On the question of the procedure to be adopted to secure the foregoing object see VOTE No. 2 at the foot of the present page”.

## VOTE NO. 2

Under Vote No. 2 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for :—

“ ‘ ALTERNATIVE “ A ” ’ (use of the Plenary Powers as proposed by Potts) as set out in the annexed sheet” [*i.e.*, the draft Ruling reproduced as “ Alternative ‘ A ’ ” in paragraph 7 of the present *Opinion*],

OR

“ ‘ ALTERNATIVE “ B ” ’ (adoption of the Townes/Howden view that the name *Geotrupes*, after having been published by Latreille in 1796, was independently published in a different sense by Fabricius in 1798) as set out in the annexed sheet” [*i.e.*, the draft Ruling reproduced as “ Alternative ‘ B ’ ” in paragraph 7 of the present *Opinion*].

**9. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 27th May 1954.

**10. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)13 :** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period the state of the voting on the two votes submitted on Voting Paper V.P.(54)13 was as follows :—

**(1) Particulars of the voting on Vote No. 1 in Voting Paper V.P.(54)13**

- (a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following nineteen (19) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Sylvester-Bradley ;    Holthuis ;    Hering ;    Vokes ;

Boschma ; Riley ; do Amaral ; Esaki ; Lemche ;  
Jaczewski ; Dymond ; Bonnet ; Cabrera ; Mertens ;  
Hemming ; Hankó ; Pearson<sup>3</sup> ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Stoll ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

**(2) Particulars of the voting on Vote No. 2 in Voting Paper V.P.(54)13**

(a) *Votes had been given in favour of Alternative " A " (Potts proposal) by the following fourteen (14) Commissioners :*

Sylvester-Bradley ; Holthuis ; Hering ; Vokes ;  
Boschma ; Riley ; Esaki ; Lemche ; Dymond ; Bonnet ;  
Cabrera ; Hemming ; Pearson<sup>3</sup> ; Stoll ;

(b) *Votes had been given in favour of Alternative " B " (Townes/Howden interpretation) by the following five Commissioners:*

do Amaral ; Jaczewski ; Mertens ; Hankó ; Bradley (J.C.) ;

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<sup>3</sup> Commissioner Pearson exercised in this case the right conferred by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, under which a Commissioner may, if he so desires, signify his willingness to support the view, or the majority view, of other members of the Commission (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 50—51).

(c) *Voting Papers not completed* :

None.

**11. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 28th May 1954, Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Votes taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)13, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast in Vote No. 1 and Vote No. 2 respectively on the foregoing Voting Paper were as set out in paragraph 10 above and declaring that, as the proposal submitted as Alternative "A" in Vote No. 2 had not only received a majority of the votes cast but had also, as required for the adoption of a proposal involving the use of the Plenary Powers, received not less than two affirmative votes out of every three votes cast, the said proposal had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**12. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" :** On 15th November 1954 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Votes on Voting Paper V.P.(54)13.

**13.** The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824, *Entomogr. Imp. ross.*  
2 : 143

*dispar*, *Scarabaeus*, Fabricius, 1781, *Spec. Ins.* 1 : 5

*Geotrupes* Latreille, 1796, *Précis Caract. gén. Ins.* : 6

*stercorarius*, *Scarabaeus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 349

**14.** The following is the reference to the type selection for the genus *Ceratophyus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1824, referred to in

Ruling (2)(b) given in the present *Opinion* : Jekel, 1866, *Ann. Soc. ent. France* (4) 5 : 522, 535.

15. The application dealt with in the present *Opinion* was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* prior to the establishment of the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953. It has not been possible since then to deal with this aspect of the present case. This question is, however, now being examined on a separate File to which the Registered Number Z.N.(G.) 122 has been allotted.

16. At the time of the submission of the application dealt with in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

17. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

18. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Forty-Six (346) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fifteenth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**